

State Council for the Interstate Compact on Education  
For Children of Military Families  
Annual Meeting

March 12, 2015

Attending the State Council for the Interstate Compact on Education for Children of Military Families on March 12, 2015 were Susan K. Haberstroh, State Compact Commissioner and Chief, Policy & External Affairs, Department of Education; COL (Ret) Ronald Sarg, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA); Patricia Crilley, Delaware National Guard; Jennifer Davis, Education Associate, Student Services & Special Populations, Department of Education; Rhonda Martell, Military Liaison, UD Cooperative; Sonya Dyer, School Liaison Officer, DAFB, and Barbara Clendaniel, Administrative Secretary II, Department of Education.

Dr. Haberstroh opened the meeting with a welcome and reviewed the council's purpose "... to remove barriers to educational success imposed on children of military families because of frequent moves and deployment of their parents." Annually, this commission meets to address topics to enhance support for youth of military families in all branches of service in Delaware. Dr. Haberstroh commented that she has had no calls concerning questions or issues and this is mainly due to the good work done by district and DAFB personnel. She also reported that there was little new information disseminated at the 2014 MiC3 Conference.

Colonel Sarg stated that there was one correction needed to last year's meeting notes – replacing Veteran's Administration with Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs on page 3. Motion made to accept the change by COL Sarg, seconded by Rhonda Martell, and unanimously agreed.

Dr. Haberstroh handed out a "Guide for Parents, School Officials and Public Administrators." "This booklet was designed to assist parents, families, guardians, school officials and public officials understand the Compact and navigate issues that may arise when dealing with a child from a military family." It was noted that this publication was not dated. Dr. Haberstroh will reach out to the Commission to request that they date their material.

There was a discussion on the observance of an official date for the Recognition of the Military Child in the State of Delaware. Dr. Haberstroh will draft legislative language (using language from the 2014 resolution), send out to the Compact for input, solicit sponsor(s), and circulate for signatures. Ms. Crilley recommended that the day of recognition be early in the month in order to receive an entire month of exposure.

The date for Purple Up Day this year is April 10, 2015 where people are asked to wear purple to recognize all branches of the military. Ms. Martell added that a free Military Exploration Camp (day camp) for campers age 8-18 will be held the week of April 6, 2015 at the Paradee Center in Dover.

The “month” of the Military Family is in November.

The Compact discussed many upcoming programs and events ---

- Ms. Dyer handed out a flyer for a free program “Delaware Military 4-H.” The program recruits military youth ages 5-18 from all branches of the service. The club meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month from 2:00-4:00 at the UDEL Paradee Center in Dover.
- Ms. Dyer asked the Compact if legislators would be willing to have their picture taken with a military child for signs that would say “Thank you for your support and respect.”
- Operation Mega Phone is scheduled for April 24, 2015. This program allows youth in the US to communicate with military youth stationed in countries.
- Several other weekend camps are scheduled:
  - AHOY MATE (3/20-22/15)
  - Military Kids Back to nature with Lenape Living Camp (3/20-22/15)
  - Military Youth Take Flight Camp (9/11-13/15)
  - Military Exploration Camp (4/6-10/15)
  - Military Teen Weekend Warrior Camp (4/24-26/15)
  - Military Kids Home Front Hero Camp (6/5-7/15)
  - Military Youth Survivor Camp (6/15-19/15)
  - Military Youth: UP for the Challenge Camp (7/13-17/15)
  - Military Camo Kids Camp (8/3-7/15)

COL Sarg offered to add these events to the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs’ website. Ms. Davis will disseminate this information to all Delaware public school counselors.

There was a discussion on recognizing educators, caregivers, and others who have impacted military youth in schools. Recognition could be in the form of letters, emails, and/or presentations at the schools or school board. There was also a discussion on funding for professional development, competitions, camp, and programs.

Ms. Davis said that Social & Emotional Learning (SEL) training offered by the military would be beneficial for school counselors. Ms. Davis, Ms. Martell, Ms. Crilley and Ms. Dyer will have further discussions on how to incorporate military outreach program training to existing school-based trainings.

Ms. Martell works with DAFB deployment camps. She also stated that all UD Freshmen must read "Thank You for Your Service" to educate students about the needs of military kids and to encourage volunteerism.

Dr. Haberstroh and the Compact discussed draft legislation - AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 14 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO A MILITARY CONNECTED IDENTIFIER IN DELAWARE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

*This Act requires the Department to develop a regulation for the identification of a "military-connected youth". The Act further provides that this identifier is not a public record, is protected by the federal Family Educational and Privacy Act and shall not be used for purposes of determining school achievement, growth or performance. The purpose of this identification is to ensure the necessary individuals at the school level are aware of any military connected youth for services and supports.*

Dr. Haberstroh added that the National Council has taken no action on the identification of military-connected youth. She looked at other state's code on their language. Delaware's language will be written to say that it is a mandatory collection of data but to not be used for accountability purposes. The data would be protected by the Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Dr. Haberstroh stated that the purpose of this legislation is to identify military-connected youth and not to have another subgroup identified under ESEA, but to assist schools with providing support and programs to military connected youth. This legislation will also allow organizations to connect with the Department of Education to learn which schools have children of military families in order to provide support that would be accepted and welcomed. Individual student data to not be released.

Dr. Haberstroh will update draft legislation with discussed comments and send to the Compact to move forward with the Delaware Legislature. The Department's position on this legislation is that the Department does not oppose.

With no further business, meeting was adjourned.

